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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Counter Probes
In Goldfine Case

By Drew Pearson

A back-stage game of cops and robbers has been going on between the Goldfine lawyers and investigators for the Harris Subcommittee, for some time. It's been a case of the investigated investigating the investigators and then the investigators turning round and investigating the investigated. It's what the CIA calls counter-intelligence.

Last week word came to Harris subcommittee members that Frank Bielaski, the famed wiretapper, was in Washington to tap their phones. At first Bielaski admitted this to a private detective friend, later denied it. Anyway, he was in Washington and wherever he goes, his business is wiretapping. His activities are so notorious that he has been the subject of an official report by the Senate Rules Committee, and the state of Rhode Island.

One private detective was found to be making inquiries into the record of Congressman Moulder of Missouri, the former chairman of the Legislative Oversight Subcommittee, who resigned when the Committee insisted on firing counsel Bernard Schwartz. Another detective was found to be making inquiries into the record of Chairman Harris, including trips he allegedly had taken in the airplane of C. H. Murphy Jr., president of the Murphy Oil Co. of Arkansas.

Last weekend the Harris subcommittee began to be concerned. They thought they were doing the investigating, didn't know they were under investigation.

Last week Roger Robb, the Washington attorney hired by Sherman Adams to defend his friend Bernard Goldfine, hired Lloyd Furr, ex-lecturer of the Metropolitan Police. Adams paid him \$200 a week. Any fires were being kindled around the

Furr paid \$100 to an employee of the Carlton who tipped him off that Baron Shacklette, chief counsel for the Harris subcommittee, and Jack Anderson of my staff were in Room 806. They were sleuthing on the investigated and the manner in which they were trying to investigate the investigators.

Report on FTC

Anderson was on deck as any good police reporter is at the scene of action, just as he was on deck to help Bernard Schwartz carry his files to Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon one midnight when Schwartz feared the committee might destroy some of them.

The chief thing Anderson ascertained was that Goldfine's cohorts had done some pretty good sleuthing by getting a copy of the preliminary Harris Subcommittee report on Sherman Adams' wire pulling at the Federal Trade Commission.

This column has now had a look at the copy which Goldfine's sleuths echred from the Harris Committee and can state that it shows Chairman Howrey is charged with a misdemeanor in giving information to Sherman Adams for Goldfine. It also shows that Goldfine got extremely favorable treatment following the Adams call.

"Northfield Mills got by without giving the information which might have disclosed other violations," said the Harris Committee's draft report.

"Moreover," continued the Committee report, "the Commission took no steps to follow up this matter and check on the concern's fabrics until the fall of 1954, when it received a complaint of other violations. The investigations prompted by this subsequent complaint yielded evidence of numerous and serious violations of the act.

"Many of the most serious violations involved fabrics alleged to contain high proportions of guanaco fiber, which in fact contained very little of that."

Call to Adams

Following this, Goldfine and his son called at the Federal Trade Commission, after Sherman Adams arranged an appointment, and at the end of the meeting called Adams in front of FTC official to thank him. But immediately thereafter, Goldfine kept on violating the wool labeling act.

"Subsequent investigation disclosed that they . . . continued to mislabel fabrics," read the draft report which Goldfine's representatives managed to smuggle from the Committee. The report then told how Charles Canavan submitted a 37-page memo recommending that "because of the magnitude of the deception and the fact that the violation had been premeditated and willful," the matter be sent to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution.

This was overruled in a two-page memo which "makes no attempt to discuss the 37 pages of facts showing serious mislabeling."

The draft committee report proceeds to make Chairman Howrey not only a liar but a violator of the law, first by pointing out that he said his memo to Sherman Adams was not official, though it was written under his letterhead as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission; second by showing that Howrey revealed confidential information.

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